

Charge of Violating the City of Lago Vista Charter by Adam Benefield

When citizens elect an official, they expect the official to represent their interests and be their voice in public matters. When elected officials take an oath of office, they accept a Public Duty that transcends their individual rights and interests.

This public duty is not just idealism; it is codified in our charter that when it comes to their Public Duty, except in two narrow circumstances, elected officials must take a position on matters and make that position known by voting:

City of Lago Vista Charter, Section 3.14 Voting.

Members of the Council present shall vote and have their votes recorded in the minutes upon every action requiring a vote. Only in the event the vote involves a member's conduct or conflict of interest shall that member abstain, and the reasons for the abstention shall be noted in the minutes. The rules set forth in Section 11.05 shall control conflict-of-interest issues unless a more restrictive provision is established by state law.

Pursuant to The City of Lago Vista Charter, Section 3.08, I charge by this sworn complaint that Councilor Adam Benefield willfully violated the City Charter fourteen (14) times during the city council meeting on December 4, 2025, and such violations may result in his removal from office under Section 3.08(b). Evidence of such violations are publicly observed in the video recording of said council meeting on the City of Lago Vista website. Specifically,

1. On the question of Resolution 25-2174 regarding removing Councilor Benefield from the Planning and Zoning Commission, Councilor Benefield abstained without sufficient cause.
2. Councilor Benefield, upon abstaining from voting on Resolution 25-2174, did not offer a justified reason for the abstention to be preserved in the minutes. "I'm not going to give you the time of day of my vote. You don't deserve it." does not satisfy as a reason under either of the two noted exceptions.
3. On the question of Resolution 25-2174 regarding appointing Councilor Prince to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Councilor Benefield abstained without sufficient cause.
4. Councilor Benefield, upon abstaining from voting on Councilor Prince's appointment, did not offer a justified reason for the abstention to be preserved in the minutes.

5. On the question of Resolution 25-2179 regarding appointing of members to the Airport Advisory Board, Councilor Benefield abstained without sufficient cause.

6. Councilor Benefield, upon abstaining from voting on appointing of members to the Airport Advisory Board, did not offer a justified reason for the abstention to be preserved in the minutes.

7. On the question of Resolution 25-2180 regarding appointing members to the Board of Adjustment, Councilor Benefield abstained without sufficient cause.

8. Councilor Benefield, upon abstaining from voting to appoint members to the Board of Adjustment, did not offer a justified reason for the abstention to be preserved in the minutes.

9. On the question of Resolution 25-2183 regarding appointing members to the Golf Course Advisory Committee, Councilor Benefield abstained without sufficient cause.

10. Councilor Benefield, upon abstaining from voting to appoint members to the Golf Course Advisory Committee, did not offer a justified reason for the abstention to be preserved in the minutes.

11. On the question of Resolution 25-2185 regarding appointing members to the Library Advisory Board, Councilor Benefield abstained without sufficient cause.

12. Councilor Benefield, upon abstaining from voting to appoint members to the Library Advisory Board, did not offer a justified reason for the abstention to be preserved in the minutes.

13. On the question of Resolution 25-2186 regarding tabling appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Councilor Benefield abstained without sufficient cause.

14. Councilor Benefield, upon abstaining from voting regarding tabling appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission, did not offer a justified reason for the abstention to be preserved in the minutes.

Further, Councilor Benefield indicated that he may continue to willfully violate the charter in the future at about the 3:56:45 point in the meeting by stating, "I have every right to abstain from a vote. I can abstain from a vote for the next 12 months."

By his willful and flagrant actions, in my opinion, Councilor Benefield has shirked his public duty, violated the City Charter, brought dishonor upon himself and his Oath of Office, publicly demonstrated emotional immaturity, and is seemingly of the mindset that he may continue to do so

with impunity. In my opinion, this is not the representation the citizens of Lago Vista deserve, and I don't believe it is the representation the citizens expected when they honored Councilor Benefield with their vote. It is my hope that Councilor Benefield will accept responsibility for his actions, apologize to the citizens of Lago Vista, and accept censure. Absent any acceptance of accountability by Councilor Benefield, I request the City Council take whatever steps are necessary to assure the citizens of proper, professional, thoughtful and mature representation on the City Council.

I swear that the foregoing statements made herein are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

X

Robert V. Owen, Jr.

State of Texas

County of Travis

Sworn to and subscribed before me by Robert V. Owen, Jr., known to me or proved to me through presentation of a Texas Driver's License.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 4 day of January, 2026.